

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 7-11, 14 and 16-18 are pending in this application. Claims 2-4, 7, and 14 are amended; Claims 16-18 are added; and Claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 15 are canceled by the present amendment without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim amendments and new claims find support in the application as originally filed, at least at original Claims 1 and 2. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Trossen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0156540 herein “Trossen”); Claims 8-11 are allowed; and Claims 2-4 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowed and allowable subject matter.

With respect to allowable Claims 2-4, Claims 2 and 3 are amended to recite the features of original Claim 1 as suggested in the outstanding Action. Additionally, Claim 2 is further amended to only recite subject matter similar to that of allowed Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection of Claims 2-4 be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 7, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Trossen, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims overcomes this ground of rejection. Specifically, original Claim 1 is canceled by the present amendment, and independent Claims 7 and 14 are amended in conformity with allowable Claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 1, 7, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

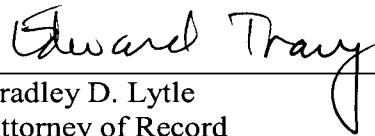
The outstanding Office Action asserts at page 2, that Claims 12 and 13 should have been included in Group II of the Requirement for Restriction/Election filed on August 27, 2007, and therefore the claims are nonelected. Accordingly, Claims 12 and 13 are canceled by the present amendment.

Finally, new Claims 16-18 find support in the application as originally filed, at least at original Claim 2. New Claims 16-18 depend from independent Claim 2, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action of that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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